

amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 11 by rewriting same to read as follows and cancel claims 19-45, without prejudice or disclaimer.

--1. (Five Times Amended) A record/playback apparatus comprising:

a record/playback unit for reading out data from a first recording medium and recording the data onto a second recording medium;

a control unit for generating basic data for imposing payment based on data indicative of a user identification and data indicative of a dubbing speed selected by the user for recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium and for transmitting the basic data for imposing payment, and when receiving data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment, directing the record/playback unit to start the recording of the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at the dubbing speed selected by the user; and

a payment imposing unit for determining, when receiving the basic data for imposing payment transmitted by the control unit, an amount of payment based on the dubbing speed selected by the user and the user identification data and for transmitting to the control unit the data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment when an electronic transfer of funds equal to the determined amount of payment is withdrawn from an account of the specific user.

--11. (Five Times Amended) A record/playback method of reading out data from a first recording medium and recording the data onto a second recording medium with the use of an apparatus capable of reading out the data from the first recording medium and recording the data onto the second recording medium, the method comprising the steps of:

generating basic data for imposing payment based on data indicative of a user identification and data indicative of a dubbing speed selected by the user for recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium;

transmitting the basic data for imposing payment from the apparatus to a payment imposing unit;

imposing payment according to the basic data for

imposing payment received, with an amount of payment determined based on the dubbing speed selected by the user and the user identification and for generating data indicative of proper completion of imposing payment when an electronic transfer of funds equal to the determined amount of payment is withdrawn from an account of the user in the payment imposing unit;

transmitting the data indicative of the proper completion of imposing payment from the payment imposing unit to the apparatus; and

directing the apparatus to start recording the data read out from the first recording medium onto the second recording medium at the dubbing speed selected by the user in response to the data indicative of the proper completion of imposing payment.--